

CH-804

c. 1850; c.1900

Woodville Road House

Aquasco vic.

Private

The Woodville Road House is a 2 1/2 story circa 1900 Victorian dwelling that likely includes the framing of an earlier two-story, three-bay, side-passage mid-19th century dwelling. The current dwelling is five bays in length with a decorative center gable and a steeply pitched roof. A full-width hipped roof porch with a center-gable adorns the façade. The dwelling stands on a 16.74 acre lot on the north side of Woodville Road. The Woodville Road House is associated with the Woodville/Aquasco community that includes a large number of notable 19th century structures, most of which are located in nearby Prince Georges County. Although requiring further study, the dwelling appears to represent the evolution of domestic architecture from the 19th to 20th century. Beginning as a side-passage plan ubiquitous during the first half of the 19th century, the dwelling was rebuilt in the Victorian style which dominated architectural tastes in Charles County between the Civil War and World War I.

Inventory No. CH-804

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Woodville Road House

other

2. Location

street and number	16340 Woodville Road	not for publication
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city, town	Brandywine	X	vicinity
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county Charles

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	William and Sharon Roberts
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street and number	16340 Woodville Road	telephone	unlisted
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city, town	Brandywine	state	MD	zip code	20613-4132
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4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 17 p.278

city, town	La Plata	liber	715	folio	238
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5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

[illegible]

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-804

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Woodville Road House is a 2 1/2 story circa 1900 Victorian dwelling that likely includes the framing of an earlier 2-story, three-bay, side-passage 19th century dwelling. The current dwelling is five bays in length with a decorative center gable and a steeply pitched roof. A full-width hipped roof porch with a center-gable adorns the façade. The dwelling stands on a 16.74 acre lot on the north side of Woodville Road. This site requires further study. Access was not granted to formally survey the property. However, because of the apparent 19th century origin as well as the elaborate Victorian reconstruction, the property was photographed from the public right of way.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-804

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates c. 1850; 1900

Architect/Builder unknown

Construction dates c. 1850; 1900

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Woodville Road House is associated with the Woodville/Aquasco community that includes a large number of notable 19th century structures, most of which are located in nearby Prince Georges County. Although requiring further study, the dwelling appears to represent the evolution of domestic architecture from the 19th to 20th century. Beginning as a side-passage plan ubiquitous during the first half of the 19th century, the dwelling was rebuilt in the Victorian style which dominated architectural tastes in Charles County between the Civil War and World War I.

During the short period of stability that followed the Revolutionary War, Charles County was integrated into the state and national government. In 1799, the county was divided into four election districts. In 1807, a geographical text authored by Joseph Scott included a description of Charles County. Included among the list of towns were Port Tobacco, Allenfresh, Nanjemoy, Hilltop, Bennedict [sic], and Newport. Port Tobacco seems to have been by far the largest of these towns with fifty houses, an Episcopal Church, a tobacco warehouse, a courthouse and a jail.

Following the War of 1812, Charles County experienced a period of economic stability. Although competition from other tobacco-growing regions intensified during the first half of the nineteenth century, the large-scale planters seem to have maintained their economic stability. By 1820, most of the out migration caused by the depredations of war and the inability of small tenant farmers to prosper had ceased. Tobacco prices became unstable, and remained so throughout the early nineteenth century. However, the wealthiest of the landowners in the county remained prosperous. Many diversified their interests, investing in corn or wheat cultivation or in commercial industries, such as milling, fishing, and commerce.

Through the 1830s, 1840s, and 1850s, Charles County continued to thrive on its agricultural and growing commercial trade. Although census records reveal no significant population growth during these years, there are no indications of economic depression. However, the relative calm of county life was disrupted by the initial rumblings of dispute that would lead to the Civil War. Charles County was sensitively located between the northern or Unionist states and the southern, secessionist states. As a tobacco-dependant county, most landholders resented the pressure brought by abolitionists to free the slave population. During the entire armed conflict that followed the secession of the southern states, Charles County was occupied by Union soldiers. Because of its southern sympathies, the county was treated like occupied territory.

Following the Civil War, Charles County suffered the same fate as most of the southern states. The basis of the economy, slave labor, was gone. Land ceased to be cultivated, credit collapsed and many planters fell deep into debt. In addition, Federal taxes levied by the "carpet-bag" government threatened landowners with the loss of their land. The turmoil of the Reconstruction era continued in Charles County well into the twentieth century. Despite the collapse of the slave-based tobacco economy following the Civil War, Charles County and most of the surrounding counties retained their dependence on tobacco cultivation. While some diversification did occur, the reliance on agriculture, mainly tobacco, remained throughout the nineteenth century.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Woodville Road House

Continuation Sheet

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Share-cropping or tenancy replaced the slave-labor system following the war. This system fostered the growth in the numbers of small planters, and generally precluded agricultural diversity. The lack of capital made it difficult for farmers to branch out into other agricultural and commercial pursuits. Adding to the economic stagnation following the war, was the unpredictability of tobacco prices. Through the latter part of the nineteenth century, tobacco values remained depressed, insuring that the small tenant farmers and share-croppers struggled. Tobacco production fell precipitously following the Civil War. In 1870, Charles County's crop fell in volume to less than half of what it was ten years earlier. However, production rebounded by 1880. Still, on average, prices remained low, and farmers struggled to maintain their farms. Because of these economic difficulties, population growth in the county stagnated between 1860 and 1920.

The general economic decline, and later, stagnation that followed the Civil War is evident in the census figures between 1860 and 1890. During this period the population of Charles County remained nearly stagnant. By 1890, the number of county residents was nearly 1,400 less than in 1860. There was little industry or profitable agriculture drawing new residents to the county during the post-Civil War era. In addition, many young Charles County residents moved away as they reached maturity.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-804

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 16.74

Acreage of historical setting unknown

Quadrangle name Hughesville

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 17, Parcel 278.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Preservation Planner

organization Charles County Planning

date 2/13/2003

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town La Plata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-804

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Woodville Road House

name of property

Charles County, MD

county and state

Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*.
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

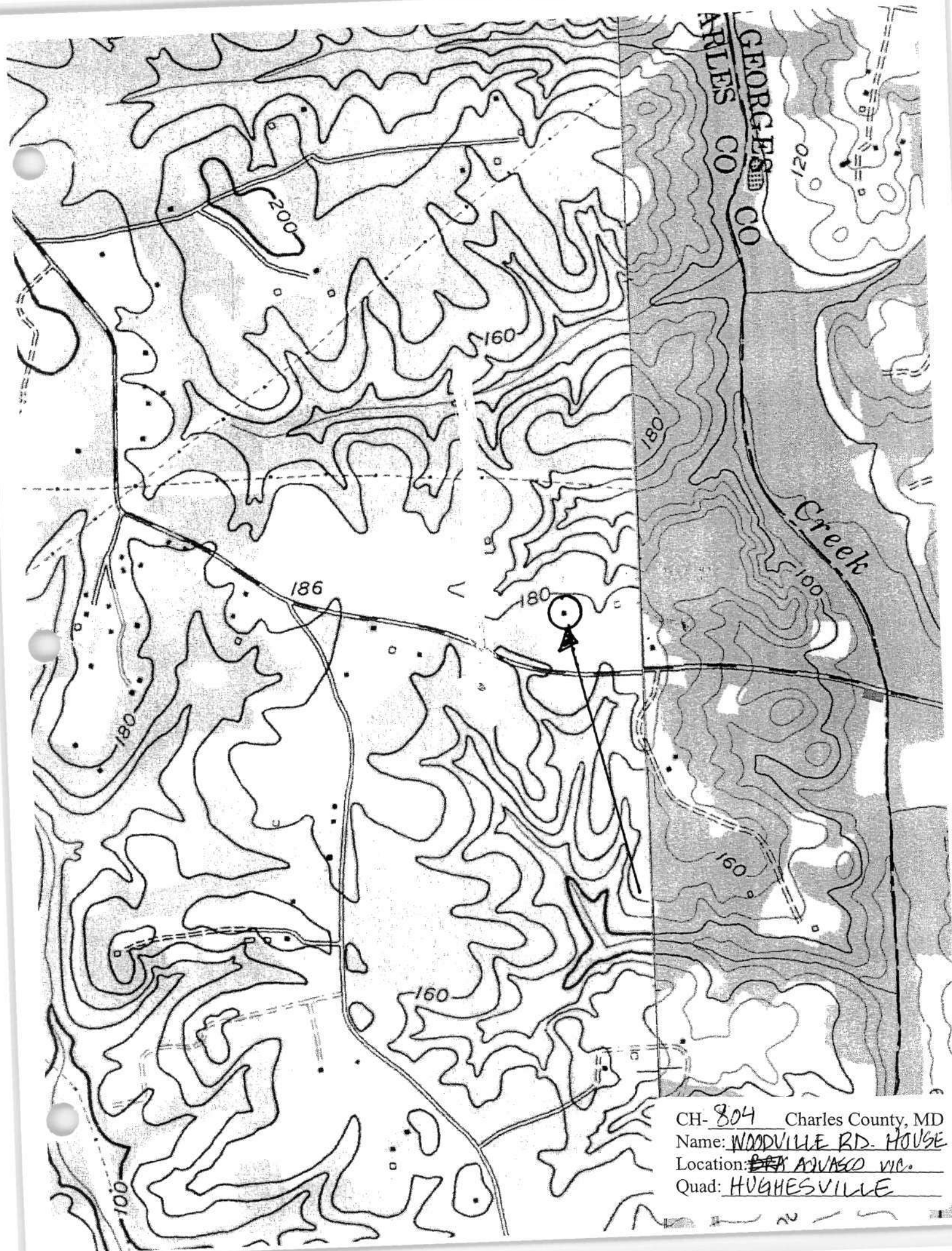
Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

Hardy, Cathy Currey. "Phase III Final Report Charles County Historic Sites Survey."
Charles County Planning. July 2002.

KCI Technologies, Inc. *Draft--Historic Context For the U.S. 301 Southern Corridor
Transportation Study*. August 1996.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*.
LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

Lewis, J. Frank & Company. *The Maryland Directory*. 1880. Baltimore



CH- 804 Charles County, MD
Name: WOODVILLE RD. HOUSE
Location: ~~BR~~ ADVASCO VIC.
Quad: HUGHESVILLE



CH-804
Woodville Road House
Aguasco, vic.

1/2004

C. Hardy
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QH-804

WOODVILLE ROAD HOUSE

E. ~~HAI~~ AQUASCO, VIC.

1/2004

C. HARDY

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